and cost-effective manner and to prevent any leakages, this Ministry has proposed introduction of Smart Card System for distribution of PDS kerosene. The scheme is proposed to be introduced initially on an experimental basis. In the Pilot project, subsidized kerosene through Smart Card is proposed to be available to BPL families while all other ration card holders would be given non-subsidized kerosene. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would ensure adequate availability of PDS as well as non-subsidized kerosene during the entire period of implementation of the Pilot.

Independent Power Projects in A.P.

2368. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had, about two years ago, requested the Central Government for reduction of fixed monthly transmission charges for supply of gas to Independent Power Projects (IPPs) and revised provision of gas supply augmentation;

(b) if so, the details of the capital cost incurred by GAIL so far towards transportation network for IPPs in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the details of the decision given by the Tariff Commission regarding prices of gas for the consumption of power sector utilities in Andhra Pradesh and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) GAIL has made an investment of Rs. 475 crores for laying the transportation network in KG basin, including for 4 IPPs and 1 Captive Power Plant. In addition, GAIL has also made an investment of Rs. 101.99 crores for laying of pipeline infrastructure for supply of gas to 4 new IPPs.

(c) Tariff Commission has not given any recommendations regarding prices of gas for the consumption of power sector utilities specifically.